

**UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI**  
**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE**

POL 1060 Introduction to Comparative Politics  
SUMMER SEMESTER 2019

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Office hours: by appointment over skype, or over email

The syllabus is a guide for the class; as such, it subject to change by the discretion of the Professor. Everything that is not listed on the syllabus should be resolved by email with the Professor.

**1. Course Description**

This course introduces fundamentals of comparative government institutions and political processes. Students will learn to compare and contrast politics in a diverse range of countries and cultures. Readings deal with concepts, structures, theories and processes of governance in states with different political systems.

**2. Course Objective**

- Understand main comparative politics concepts, theories and topics
- Use the comparative method and analysis
- Critically assess Comparative Politics literature
- Assess contemporary issues in global affairs
- Develop sensitivity for interdisciplinary analysis
- Learn how to approach research

**3. Assignments**

- 15 reading summaries (2 % each, thus 30 % of the grade)
- 1 country analysis paper (30 % of the grade)

- 1 comparative research paper (30 % of the grade)
- 1 skype Q and A (10 % of the grade)

### Reading Summaries

The summary of each module's reading should be 250 words long ( $\pm 10\%$ ), or a minimum of a 2 minutes long Kaltura video, depending on the mode that the student chooses to submit the assignment. Submission modes may vary across the Modules. The student reviews key ideas of the reading and looks at the additional reference under each Module. The latter is meant to help the students with their two papers and to clarify additionally the concepts at hand. As such, it is not a requirement to summarize this second reading. Since there are 15 modules, there are 15 summaries to be submitted. There are no specific deadlines for an individual module; yet, all the summaries should be submitted by Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2019 11:59 pm. All summaries submitted by then will be counted towards student's grade. **THERE ARE NO LATE SUBMISSIONS.** Detailed instructions will be provided in the introductory Kaltura video by professor.

### Country Analysis Paper

The Country Analysis is a short – 1000 words long ( $\pm 10\%$ ) – paper, where the student selects a country (also contemporary not-existing country: e.g. Yugoslavia, but not an imaginary formation such as Westeros) and analysis its political system. The analysis is based on the concepts that are discussed in different modules of the class (particularly the first 9) and can be modeled after the examples in the remaining 6 models (models 10-15) No specific deadlines for the assignment; yet, it should be submitted by Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2019 11:59 pm. **THERE ARE NO LATE SUBMISSIONS.** Detailed instructions will be provided in the introductory Kaltura video by professor.

### Comparative Research Paper

The Comparative Research Paper is a short – 1000 words long ( $\pm 10\%$ ) – paper, where the student picks a research question related to the broad scope of Comparative Politics and applies the comparative method in answering it. No specific deadlines for the assignment; yet, it should be submitted by Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2019 11:59 pm. **THERE ARE NO LATE SUBMISSIONS.** Detailed instructions will be provided in the introductory Kaltura video by professor.

### Skype Q and A

Each student will schedule a short Skype session with the instructor, where they will talk about the two papers. Thus, the student should be prepared to answer the following: which state will be dissected in Country Analysis Paper? Why? Where and what is the literature on the country at hand? Which research question in Comparative Politics will the student take on in the Comparative Research Paper? Why? What is the relevant literature regarding the question? No specific deadlines for the assignment; yet, it should be done by Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2019 11:59 pm. **THERE ARE NO LATE INTERVIEWS.** Detailed instructions will be provided in the introductory Kaltura video by professor.

#### **4. Grading**

100 = A +

95-99 = A

90-94 = A-

85-89 = B+

80-84 = B

75-79 = B-

70-74 = C+

65-69 = C

60-64 = C-

55-59 = D+

50-55 = D

<50 = F

There **WILL NOT** be any extra credits.

#### **5. Academic integrity**

The University Rules, including the Student Code of Conduct and other documented policies of the Department, College, and University related to academic integrity will be enforced. Any violation of these regulations, including acts of plagiarism or cheating, will be dealt with on an

individual basis according to the severity of the misconduct. A copy of the policy can be found on the University website at: [http://www.uc.edu/conduct/Academic\\_Integrity.html](http://www.uc.edu/conduct/Academic_Integrity.html).

## **6. Special needs policy**

If you have any special needs related to your participation in this course, including identified visual impairment, hearing impairment, physical impairment, communication disorder, and/or specific learning disability that may influence your performance in this course, you should meet with the Professor to arrange for reasonable provisions to ensure an equitable opportunity to meet all the requirements of this course. At the discretion of the instructor, some accommodations may require prior approval by Disability Services.

## **7. Course plan**

The goal is to follow the course outline as presented below; however, some adjustments may be necessary during the class. The following course outline and readings are subject to change with appropriate notice to the students. All the readings are available on Blackboard – separated according to the modules. A module is an equivalent to a week of classes. As such, I recommend that you follow a study pace of 1 module per day. First, look at the video that I post on Blackboard under each module, secondly do the readings and lastly do your assignments. This will give you enough time also to devote it to the two short papers. Regarding the latter, please use UC library system to identify the relevant literature (<https://libraries.uc.edu/>). If you do not know how to navigate the web-site, or if you have problems in finding relevant literature, please ask library staff for help.

### 1 MODULE: Introduction – What is Comparative Politics

- Arend Lijphart, Comparative Politics and the Comparative Method Author

Look at:

- Gerardo L. Munck and Richard Snyder, Debating the Direction of Comparative Politics  
An Analysis of Leading Journals

### 2 MODULE: Power

- David Baldwin, Power and International Relations, CH4

Look at:

- COW CINC data set: <http://www.correlatesofwar.org/data-sets/national-material-capabilities>

### 3 MODULE: The State and Nationalism

- Gill, Graeme J, The nature and development of the modern state, CH 1 (available on-line through Langsam library website)

Look at:

- Yael Tamir, The Enigma of Nationalism

### 4 MODULE: Regimes

- David Collier and Steven Levitsky, Democracy with adjectives: Conceptual Innovation in Comparative Research

Look at:

- Gerardo Munck and Jay Verkuilen, Conceptualizing and Measuring Democracy: Evaluating Alternative Indices

### 5 MODULE: Development, Modernization

- Adam Przeworski and Fernando Limongi, Modernization: Theories and Facts

Look at:

- Daniel Ziblatt, How did Europe Democratize?

### 6 MODULE: Electoral Systems and Political Parties

- Kenneth Benoit, Electoral Laws as Political Consequences: Explaining the Origins and Change of Electoral Institutions

Look at:

- Herbert Kitschelt, Linkages Between Citizens and Politicians In Democratic Polities

#### 7 MODULE: Bureaucracy and Collective Action

- Nelson Michaud, Bureaucratic Politics and the Shaping of Policies: Can We Measure Pulling and Hauling Games?

Look at:

- Paul Pecorino, Olson's Logic of Collective Action at fifty

#### 8 MODULE: System of Government

- Alan Siaroff, Comparative presidencies: The inadequacy of the presidential, semi-presidential and parliamentary distinction

Look at:

- Ko Maeda and Misa Nishikawa, Duration of Party Control in Parliamentary and Presidential Governments A Study of 65 Democracies, 1950 to 1998

#### 9 MODULE: Political Economy

- David R. Cameron, The Expansion of the Public Economy: A Comparative Analysis

Look at:

- Renée Marlin-Bennett, International Political Economy: Overview and Conceptualization

#### 10 MODULE: UK

- Krieger, Britain

#### 11 MODULE: Germany

- Allen, Germany

#### 12 MODULE: France

- Kesselman, France

### 13 MODULE: Russia

- DeBardeleben, Russia

### 14 MODULE: China

- Joseph, China

### 15 MODULE: Conclusion

- Dwayne Woods, The Future of Comparative Politics is its Past

Look At:

- DeSipio, USA